Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 IO-14 EA-11

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CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3396

SECTO 007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

- 1. SECRETARY RECEIVED LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AT WLADORF SEPTEMBER 24. CONVERSATION COVERED AID, LAO POSITION ON KHMER REPRESENTATION, AND MIA SEARCH.
- 2. ON AID, PHOUMI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AID ALREADY RECEIVED. SAID THAT LAOS WOULD NOW NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE O THE BURDENS OF RECONSTRUCTION, REFUGEE RELOCATION, AND OF IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS PEOPLE. SECRETARY SAID THAT THE US WOULD TRY TO CONTINUE AID AT PRESENT LEVELS BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INCREASE IT THIS FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE CONGRESS WOULD NOT APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY. ADDED THAT US WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS TO MAKE LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS. POINTED OUT THAT US PROVIDED MORE AID THAN ANY OTHER NATION. PHOUMI REITERATED DEEP APPRECIATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD DO THE BEST IT COULD.
- 3. ON KHMER REPRESENTATION, SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED LAOS CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD VOTE WITH US; SAID THIS WAS SUBJECT OF GREAT

IMPORTANCE TO US. SAID IT WOULD AFFECT US ATTITUDES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE CONGRESS, TOWARD ALL INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES. PHOUMI SAID LAO POSITION NOT YET DECIDED BUT WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN RLG CABINET. SAID DECISION MIGHT HAVE TO AWAIT RETURN OF PRIME MINISTER TO VIENTIANE. HE ADDED HE HAD MET WITH LONG BORET YESTERDAY AND HAD TOLDHIM OF LAO EXPERIENCE IN GAINING PEACE AND REUNIFICIATION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. REITERATED LAO POLICY IS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ALL ITS NEIGHBORS.

4. SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFLUENCE PHOUMI COULD BRING TO BEAR TO HELP ON SEARCH FOR US MIA. PHOUMI REPLIED THIS POINT IS WRITTEN INTO LAOS ACCORDS AND SAID, ONCE THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE, ONE WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN GREATER SAFETY AND THERFORE HE BELIEVES THAT LAOS WILL BE ABLE TO DO THIS.

5. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH PHOUMI ASKING SECRETARY TO CONVEY GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY RESPONDING IN KIND REGARDING SOUVANNA PHOUMA. KISSINGER

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TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

To: VIENTIANE

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